

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07267 171346Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 OES-06

FEA-01 TRSE-00 /034 W

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R 162129Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6231

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 7267

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR ENRG CO

SUBJ: CIVAIR - JET FUEL PRICES

REF: BOGOTA 5964

1. ON JULY 15, EMBOFFS CALLED ON FONOFF ACTING UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, TERESA DE ZEA, TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF FUEL PRICE DIFFERENTIAL AND CONTINUING DELAY IN REFUND OF TAXES ILLEGALLY CHARGED US CARRIERS. ZEA WAS TOTALLY UNINFORMED ON SUBJECT, BUT TOOK CAREFUL NOTES DURING CONVERSATION AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. EMBOFFS STRESSED THAT US LAW COULD WELL REQUIRE A REDUCTION IN FUEL ALLOCATIONS TO COLOMBIAN CARRIERS IF DIFFERENTIAL QUESTION NOT RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY. SIMILAR APPROACH MADE TO ERNESTO MENDOZA, PRESIDENT OF AVIANCA, ON JULY 16.

2. EARLIER THIS WEEK, EC/COM COUNSELOR SPOKE WITH IVAN OBREGON, DIRECTOR OF TAXES, REGARDING DELAY IN REBATE AND, AT OBREGON'S REQUEST, SENT OVER WRITTEN STATEMENT DESCRIBING BRANIFF'S ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN REIMBURSEMENT OF FUEL TAXES (DATA IN STATEMENT PROVIDED BY LOCAL BRANIFF REP). OBREGON PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO CUT THROUGH RED TAPE AND FACILITATE REBATE.

DREXLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JET FUEL, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BOGOTA07267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760276-0709
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760752/aaaabtfc.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BOGOTA 5964
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - JET FUEL PRICES
TAGS: EAIR, ENRG, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006